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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent appln. of: CHUA Chien Liang

Serial No.: 10/519,234

Filed: December 21, 2004

Title: **NETWORKING SYSTEM**

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Examiner: Tae K. Kim

Grp. Art Unit: 2109

Atty. Docket: 342-04

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 29, 2007.

Alex R. Sluzas, Reg. No. 28,669
Dated: October 29, 2007

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are the following documents for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

1. This transmittal letter in duplicate;

2. Certified copy of Singapore Patent Application No. PCT/SG2002/000130 dated June 25, 2002 in support of applicant's claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119; and

3. Acknowledgment post card to be date-stamped and returned to Paul & Paul.

In the event that an additional fee is required with respect to this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Paul & Paul Deposit Account No. 16-0750, Order No. 5473.

Respectfully submitted,

October 29, 2007

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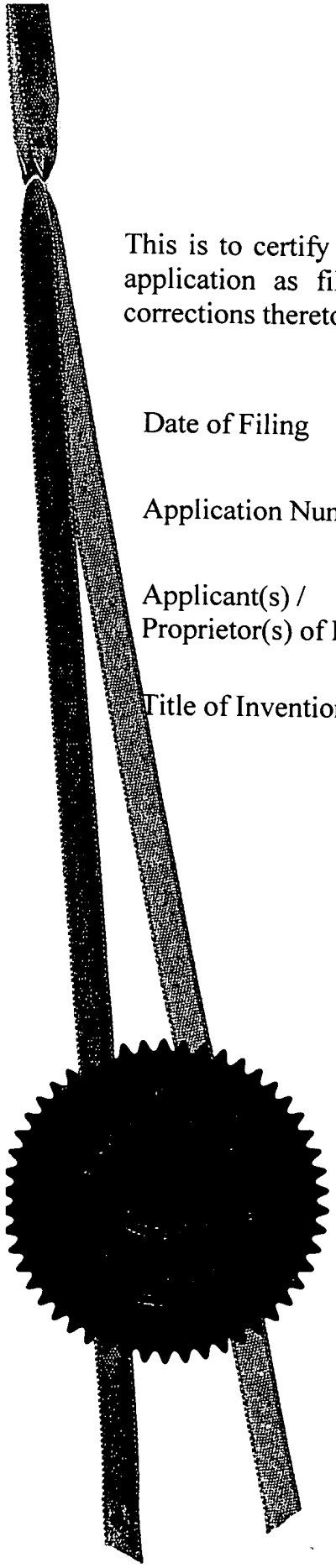
Order No. 5473

REGISTRY OF PATENTS
SINGAPORE

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following international application as filed with the Registry as the receiving Office and of any corrections thereto.

Date of Filing	:	25 JUN 2002
Application Number	:	PCT/SG2002/000130
Applicant(s) / Proprietor(s) of Patent	:	CHUA CHIEN LIANG
Title of Invention	:	NETWORKING SYSTEM



Sharmaine Wu (Ms)
Assistant Registrar
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22 Oct 2007

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PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

PCT/SG 02/00130
International Application No.

25 JUN 2002 (25-06-2002)
International Filing Date

REGISTRY OF PATENTS (SINGAPORE)
PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION
Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference (if desired) (12 characters maximum) LAM/01030717

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

NETWORKING SYSTEM

Box No. II APPLICANT [X] This person is also inventor

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

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This person is applicant for the purposes of: [X] all designated States [ ] all designated States except the United States of America [ ] the United States of America only [ ] the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

This person is:
[ ] applicant only
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[ ] Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: [X] agent [ ] common representative

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)*

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[ ] **Address for correspondence:** Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES *Mark the applicable check-boxes below; at least one must be marked.*

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a):

Regional Patent

☒ **AP** **ARIPO Patent:** **GH** Ghana, **GM** Gambia, **KE** Kenya, **LS** Lesotho, **MW** Malawi, **MZ** Mozambique, **SD** Sudan, **SL** Sierra Leone, **SZ** Swaziland, **TZ** United Republic of Tanzania, **UG** Uganda, **ZM** Zambia, **ZW** Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT *(if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)* .....

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☒ **EP** **European Patent:** **AT** Austria, **BE** Belgium, **CH & LI** Switzerland and Liechtenstein, **CY** Cyprus, **DE** Germany, **DK** Denmark, **ES** Spain, **FI** Finland, **FR** France, **GB** United Kingdom, **GR** Greece, **IE** Ireland, **IT** Italy, **LU** Luxembourg, **MC** Monaco, **NL** Netherlands, **PT** Portugal, **SE** Sweden, **TR** Turkey, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT

☒ **OA** **OAPI Patent:** **BF** Burkina Faso, **BJ** Benin, **CF** Central African Republic, **CG** Congo, **CI** Côte d'Ivoire, **CM** Cameroon, **GA** Gabon, **GN** Guinea, **GQ** Equatorial Guinea, **GW** Guinea-Bissau, **ML** Mali, **MR** Mauritania, **NE** Niger, **SN** Senegal, **TD** Chad, **TG** Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT *(if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)* .....

National Patent *(if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)*:

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Check-boxes below reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

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Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement: The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. *(Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)*

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application *(day/month/year)*	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1)				
item (2)				
item (3)				
item (4)				
item (5)				

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) *(only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office)* identified above as:

☐ all items ☐ item (1) ☐ item (2) ☐ item (3) ☐ item (4) ☐ item (5) ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

* *Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)):*

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) *(if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):*

ISA / AUSTRALIA

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search *(if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):*

Date *(day/month/year)* Number Country *(or regional Office)*

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following **declarations** are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) *(mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration)*: Number of declarations

☐ Box No. VIII (i) Declaration as to the identity of the inventor :

☐ Box No. VIII (ii) Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent :

☐ Box No. VIII (iii) Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application :

☐ Box No. VIII (iv) Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America) :

☐ Box No. VIII (v) Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty :

Sheet No. 4

Box No. IX CHECK LIST: LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains:

(a) the following number of sheets in paper form:

request (including declaration sheets)	: 4	
description (excluding sequence listing part)	: 13	
claims	: 8	
abstract	: 1	
drawings	: 3	
Sub-total number of sheets	: 29	0
sequence listing part of description *(actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form: see (b) below)*	:	
Total number of sheets	: 29	0

(b) **sequence listing part of description filed in computer readable form**

(i) ☐ only (under Section 801(a)(i))

(ii) ☐ in addition to being filed in paper form (under Section 801(a)(ii))

Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which the sequence listing part is contained *(additional copies to be indicated under item 9(ii), in right column)*: .....

This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) *(mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of such items)*:

		Number of items
1. ☒	fee calculation sheet	: 2
2. ☐	original separate power of attorney	:
3. ☐	original general power of attorney	:
4. ☐	copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:	:
5. ☐	statement explaining lack of signature	:
6. ☐	priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):	:
7. ☐	translation of international application into *(language)*:	:
8. ☐	separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material	:
9. ☐	**sequence listing in computer readable form (indicate also type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other))**	
	(i) ☐ copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13*ter* only (and not as part of the international application)	:
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	(iii) ☐ together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the sequence listing part mentioned in left column	:
10. ☐	other *(specify)*:	:

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 1

Language of filing of the international application: ENGLISH

Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

Rodyk

LONG AI MING
RODYK & DAVIDSON

For receiving Office use only

1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application: 25 JUN 2002 (25-06-2002)

2. Drawings: ☒ received: ☐ not received:

3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:

4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):

5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / AU

6. ☐ Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid

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Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

NETWORKING SYSTEM

The present invention relates generally to generating groups to meet, enabling entities to meet other entities more effectively.

In a further form the present invention relates to a networking system and, more particularly, suited, although not exclusively, to business networking within a networked computer environment.

BACKGROUND

Meeting is arranged most commonly by methods like cold calling, exhibition, advertisement or through an intermediary party like an employment agency.

A problem which many salesmen, employers, employees, suppliers and investors face is that of making that vital first appointment to present and sell their ideas, goods, or indeed, themselves.

A "brute force" solution to the problem is what is sometimes known as cold calling wherein prospective clients or business partners are simply rung or otherwise approached without any specific invitation to do so and in the hope that the contact will nevertheless lead to a business relationship.

More general forms include exhibitions, seminars and membership of business associations.

Problems with these approaches include:

1. Cold calling generally produces negligible positive results;
2. Exhibitions only occur once every so often;
3. Business associations and membership of them does not of itself guarantee any form of common interest between the members sufficient to trigger business interaction.

It is an object of at least preferred embodiments of the present invention to address or ameliorate one or more of the above mentioned problems.

It is the aim of the present invention in at least preferred forms to supplement the above. It can be effective because there is no need to have elaborate set up like exhibitions; no need to go through the painful process of cold calling, no high expenses of advertisements or an intermediate agency.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

In this specification the phrase "link of indications" is a linear linkage of entities such that if entity A

follows another entity B then A is in the set of indications of B.

Accordingly, in one broad form of the invention there is provided a method to generate a group of entities from a plurality of participating entities, said method comprising:

(a) One of said participating entities expressing by indication which others of said participating entities they wish to meet;

(b) Selecting to be a first member of the group an entity which has indicated at least one other of said participating entities it wishes to meet;

(c) Adding a new entity to the group by selecting said new entity from the set of indications of the last member added to said group.

Preferably indications of an entity are the set of other entities that said entity indicated it is interested in meeting.

Preferably the method further comprises repeatedly adding new members until at least one indication of the set of indications of the last new member added to said group includes one of the current members of the group.

Preferably the method further comprises using a look ahead method of choosing which one of the set of

indications to choose from the last new member where the look ahead consists of N generations.

Preferably the first generation is the set of indications of the last new member and the Nth generation is the set of entities combined from the set of indications of all of the entities of N-1 generation.

Preferably if one of the entity (named X) from the first generation to the N generation is a member of the group, then the look ahead has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member to the entity that has said entity named X as a member of its set of indications.

Preferably the method further comprises using a look back method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look back consists of N generations.

Preferably the first generation is the set of entities whose set of indications includes at least one of the current members of the group and the Nth generation is the set of entities whose set of indications include one of the entity of the N-1 generation.

Preferably if one entity (named X) from the first generation to the N generation is also the last new member

of the group, then the look back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member which is also said entity named X back to the first generation of the look back.

Preferably the method further comprises a combined look ahead and backwards; said method consisting of looking ahead N generations and looking backwards M generations where if there is an entity X that is common to the look ahead from 1 to N generations and the look back is from 1 to M generations, then the combined look ahead and backwards has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member to X and from X to the first generation of the look back.

Preferably the method further comprises repeatedly increasing N and M by steps of amount N1 and M1 until the combined look ahead and backwards has succeeded or N or M equal or exceed a predetermined value.

Preferably the entities under consideration are already pre-selected for in terms of having already indicated a common time and a common place to meet.

Preferably the method further comprises stopping the process of generation of new members of said group when the

quantity of members of the group reaches a predetermined quantity.

In a preferred form the entities are people.

In an alternative preferred form the entities are corporations.

In a further preferred form the entities are corporations or people.

In a further broad form of the invention there is provided a system to generate groups to meet for the purpose of enabling participating entities to meet others of said participating entities more effectively, the system comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

linkages to said participating entities by input/output devices;

wherein the particulars of said participating entities and indications can be fed in and stored in the computer readable storage medium and resultant groups generated posted to the entities via the same input/output devices; and computer programming stored on the storage medium.

Preferably the computer programming stored on said system is configured to be readable from the computer readable storage medium by a computer and thereby cause the computer to operate so as to:

pick an entity to be the first member of the group; add a new entity to the group by picking it from the set of indications of the last new member of group, where the set of indications of an entity are the set of other entities that an entity indicated it is interested in.

Preferably the process of generating groups is stopped when the quantity of the member of the group equals or exceeds a specific quantity.

Preferably the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

repeatedly add new members until the set of indications of the last new member include one of the current member of the group.

Preferably the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate as to:

use a look ahead method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look ahead consist of N generations.

Preferably the first generation is the set of indications of the last new member and the Nth generation is the set of entities combined from the set of indications of all of the entities of N-1 generation.

Preferably if one of the entity named X from the first generation to the N generation is a member of the group, then the look ahead has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follow the link of indications from the last new member to the entity that has X as a member of its set of indications.

Preferably the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

use a look back method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look back consists of N generations.

Preferably the first generation is the set of entities whose set of indications includes at least one of the current members of the group and the Nth generation is the set of entities whose set of indications include one of the entities of the N-1 generation.

Preferably if one of the entities now named X from the first generation to the N generation is also the last new member the group then the look back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member which is also X back to the first generation of the look back.

Preferably the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

have a combined look ahead and back; said system consisting of looking ahead N generations and looking backwards M generations where if there is an entity X that is common to the look ahead from 1 to N generations and the look back from 1 to M generations then the combined look ahead and back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follow the link of indications from the last new member to X and from X to the first generation of the look back;

Preferably the system further includes repeatedly increasing N and M by steps of amount K until the combined look has succeeded or N or M exceeds a given value.

Preferably the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

enable the entities under consideration to be pre-selected for in terms of having already indicated a common time and place.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a system according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of entities and their indications operable in association with the system of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of group formed from the entities in Fig 2 following the system of Fig. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Broadly, preferred forms of the present invention relate generally to a system and apparatus for generating groups to meet from amongst participating entities.

In a computerized method, entities that are participating would indicate which other entities they wish to meet. An individual is then selected to be the seed to grow the group that is to meet. This could be by various methods such as indicating directly or screening by characteristics or a combination screening and indicating or any other means. Each new member is added to the group from the entities that are in the indications of the latest

entity that has joined the group. The process ends when the last entity added has in its indications a member that is already a member of the group or the group has reached a pre-determined maximum size.

To speed up the process, a look ahead, a look back as well as combine look are proposed. In one form the entities may be people. In another aspect the entities may be corporations. In another form aspect of the invention, the entities can be either corporations or people.

With reference to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows one embodiment of a "group for meeting" generating system. The system includes a central server (CS) that is use to store the database (DB). The input/output devices (IO1, IO2, IO3 ...) can be computers, mobile phones or any other suitable data input devices.

The network can be either a local area network, the internet or any other suitable medium for connecting the users to the database.

In one form the database can be implemented as an Access database running under the Microsoft Windows operating system, for example on an Intel platform. More sophisticated software may be utilized where the number of participants becomes very large.

The entities in Fig. 2 can register in the database by means of the input/output devices. They can also by the same means view and give their indications of which other entities in the database they wish to meet.

In Fig. 2 entity A has in its indications the entity B, I, J. Entity B has in its indications C, K. This means that A would like to meet B, I or J. Entity B would like to meet C or K.

The central server can then generate the group by selecting an individual to be the seed to grow the group that is to meet, in this case A.

Each new member is added to the group from the entities that are in the indications of the latest entity that has joined the group. In this instance, the process ends when the last entity added has in its indications a member that is already a member of the group as shown in Fig 3.

Thus the group will grow in the order A, B, C, D, E with the seed being A and the last member being E. Note that E has B as a member of its indications and B also being already a member of the group the process can stop. This is because each member of the group has at least one of its indications already in the group.

SUMMARY

In one form, steps in at least some preferred embodiments of the present invention can be summarized as follows:

1. entities registering themselves in the database
2. each entity indicates which other entities in the database they find useful to meet
3. administrator to form interrelationships for each entity which have at least one other entity they find useful to meet and to come together in the same group
4. The groups are then notified of the place and time of meeting.
5. Step 1 can be repeated for new entities
6. Step 2 can be repeated whenever the entities chooses to do so
7. Step 3 to Step 4 can be repeated regularly.

The above describes only some embodiments of the present invention and modifications, obvious to those skilled in the art, can be made thereto without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A method to generate a group of entities from a plurality of participating entities, said method comprising:

   (a) One of said participating entities expressing by indication which others of said participating entities they wish to meet;

   (b) Selecting to be a first member of the group an entity which has indicated at least one other of said participating entities it wishes to meet;

   (c) Adding a new entity to the group by selecting said new entity from the set of indications of the last member added to said group.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the set of indications of an entity are the set of other entities that said entity indicated it is interested in meeting.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising: repeatedly adding new members until at least one indication of the set of indications of the last new member added to said group includes one of the current members of the group.

4. The method of any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 further comprising using a look ahead method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last

new member where the look ahead consist of N generations.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the first generation is the set of indications of the last new member and the Nth generation is the set of entities combined from the set of indications of all of the entities of N-1 generation.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein if one of the entity (named X) from the first generation to the N generation is a member of the group, then the look ahead has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member to the entity that has said entity named X as a member of its set of indications.

7. The method of Claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising using a look back method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look back consists of N generations.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the first generation is the set of entities whose set of indications includes at least one of the current members of the group and the Nth generation is the set of entities whose set of

indications include one of the entity of the N-1 generation.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein if one entity (named X) from the first generation to the N generation is also the last new member of the group, then the look back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member which is also said entity named X back to the first generation of the look back.

10. The method of any previous claim further comprising a combined look ahead and backwards; said method consisting of looking ahead N generations and looking backwards M generations where if there is an entity X that is common to the look ahead from 1 to N generations and the look back is from 1 to M generations, then the combined look ahead and backwards has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member to X and from X to the first generation of the look back.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising repeatedly increasing N and M by steps of amount N1 and M1 until

the combined look ahead and backwards has succeeded or N or M equal or exceed a predetermined value.

12. The method of any previous claim wherein the entities under consideration are already pre-selected for in terms of having already indicated a common time and a common place to meet.

13. The method of any previous claim further comprising stopping the process of generation of new members of said group when the quantity of members of the group reaches a predetermined quantity.

14. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the entities are people.

15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the entities are corporations or a combination of corporations and people.

16. A system to generate groups to meet for the purpose of enabling participating entities to meet others of said participating entities more effectively, the system comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

linkages to said participating entities by input/output devices;

wherein the particulars of said participating entities and indications can be fed in and stored in the

computer readable storage medium and resultant groups generated posted to the entities via the same input/output devices; and computer programming stored on the storage medium.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the computer programming stored on said system is configured to be readable from the computer readable storage medium by a computer and thereby cause the computer to operate so as to:

pick an entity to be the first member of the group; add a new entity to the group by picking it from the set of indications of the last new member of group, where the set of indications of an entity are the set of other entities that an entity indicated it is interested in.

18. The system of Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the process of generating groups is stopped when the quantity of the member of the group equals or exceeds a specific quantity.

19. The system of any one of Claims 16, 17 or 18 wherein the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

repeatedly add new members until the set of indications of the last new member include one of the current member of the group.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate as to:

use a look ahead method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look ahead consist of N generations.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein the first generation is the set of indications of the last new member and the Nth generation is the set of entities combined from the set of indications of all of the entities of N-1 generation.

22. The system of Claim 21 wherein if one of the entity named X from the first generation to the N generation is a member of the group, then the look ahead has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follow the link of indications from the last new member to the entity that has X as a member of its set of indications.

23. The system of any one of claims 16 to 19 wherein the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

use a look back method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look back consists of N generations.

24. The system of Claim 23 wherein the first generation is the set of entities whose set of indications includes at least one of the current members of the group and the Nth generation is the set of entities whose set of indications include one of the entities of the N-1 generation.

25. The system of Claim 24 wherein if one of the entities now named X from the first generation to the N generation is also the last new member the group then the look back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follows the link of indications from the last new member which is also X back to the first generation of the look back.

26. The system of any one of Claims 16 to 19 wherein the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

have a combined look ahead and back; said system consisting of looking ahead N generations and looking backwards M generations where if there is an entity X that is common to the look ahead from 1 to N

generations and the look back from 1 to M generations then the combined look ahead and back has succeeded and the new members added to the group will consist of the set of entities that follow the link of indications from the last new member to X and from X to the first generation of the look back;

27. The system of Claim 26 repeatedly increasing N and M by steps of amount K until the combined look has succeeded or N or M exceed a given value.

28. The system of any one of Claims 16 to 27 wherein the stored computer programming is further configured to cause the computer to operate so as to:

enable the entities under consideration to be pre-selected for in terms of having already indicated a common time and place.

NETWORKING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A method to generate a group of entities from a plurality of participating entities, the method comprising:

One of the participating entities expressing by indication which others of the participating entities they wish to meet;

Selecting to be a first member of the group an entity which has indicated at least one other of the participating entities it wishes to meet;

Adding a new entity to the group by selecting the new entity from the set of indications of the last member added to the group.

(FIGURE 1)

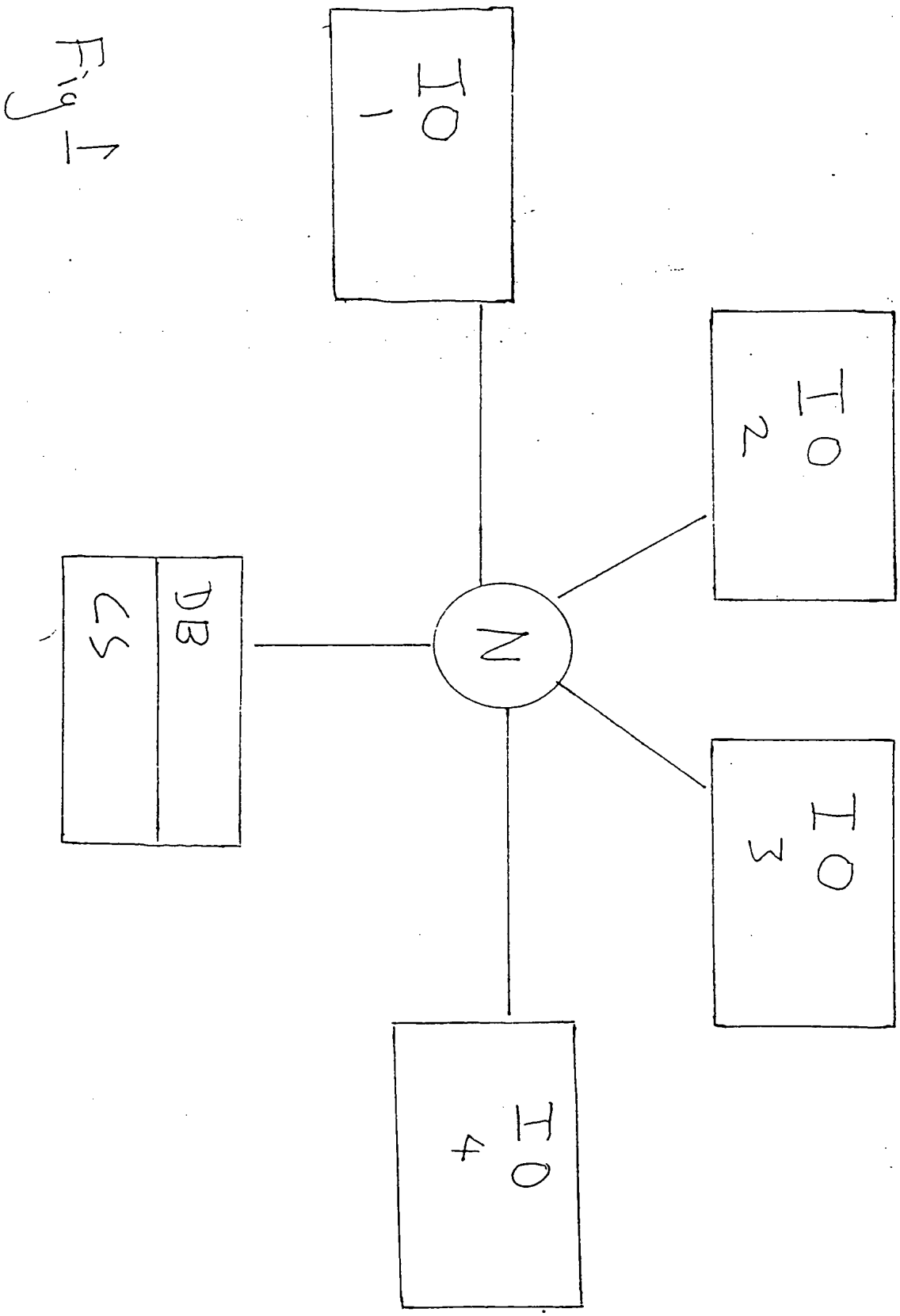
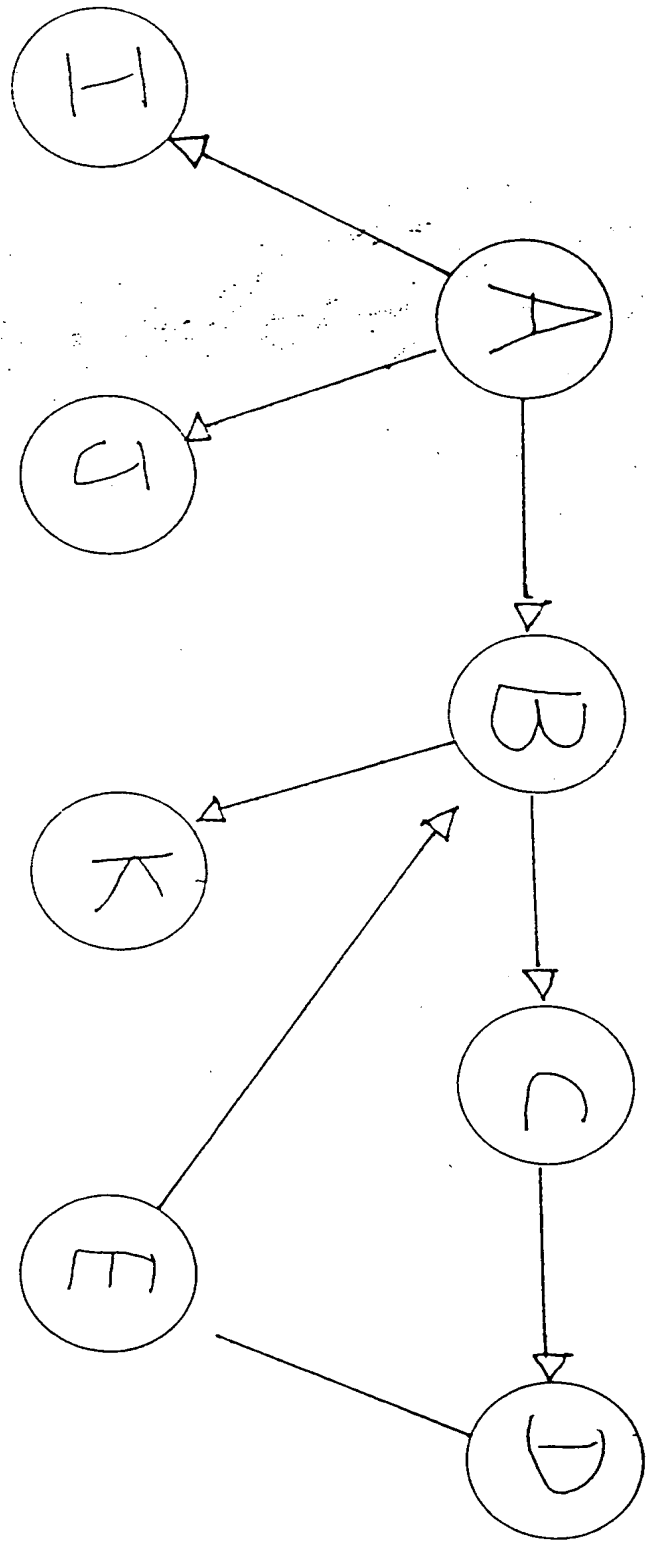

H O - 1
H O 2
N
DB 5
H O 3
H O 4

Fig 2



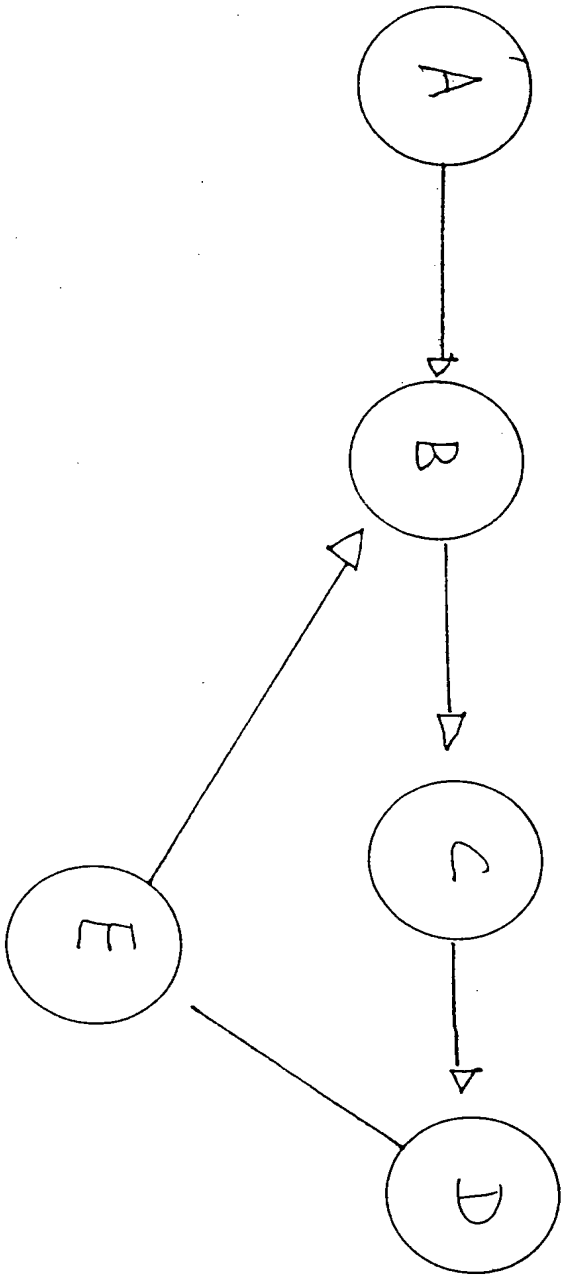


FIG 3

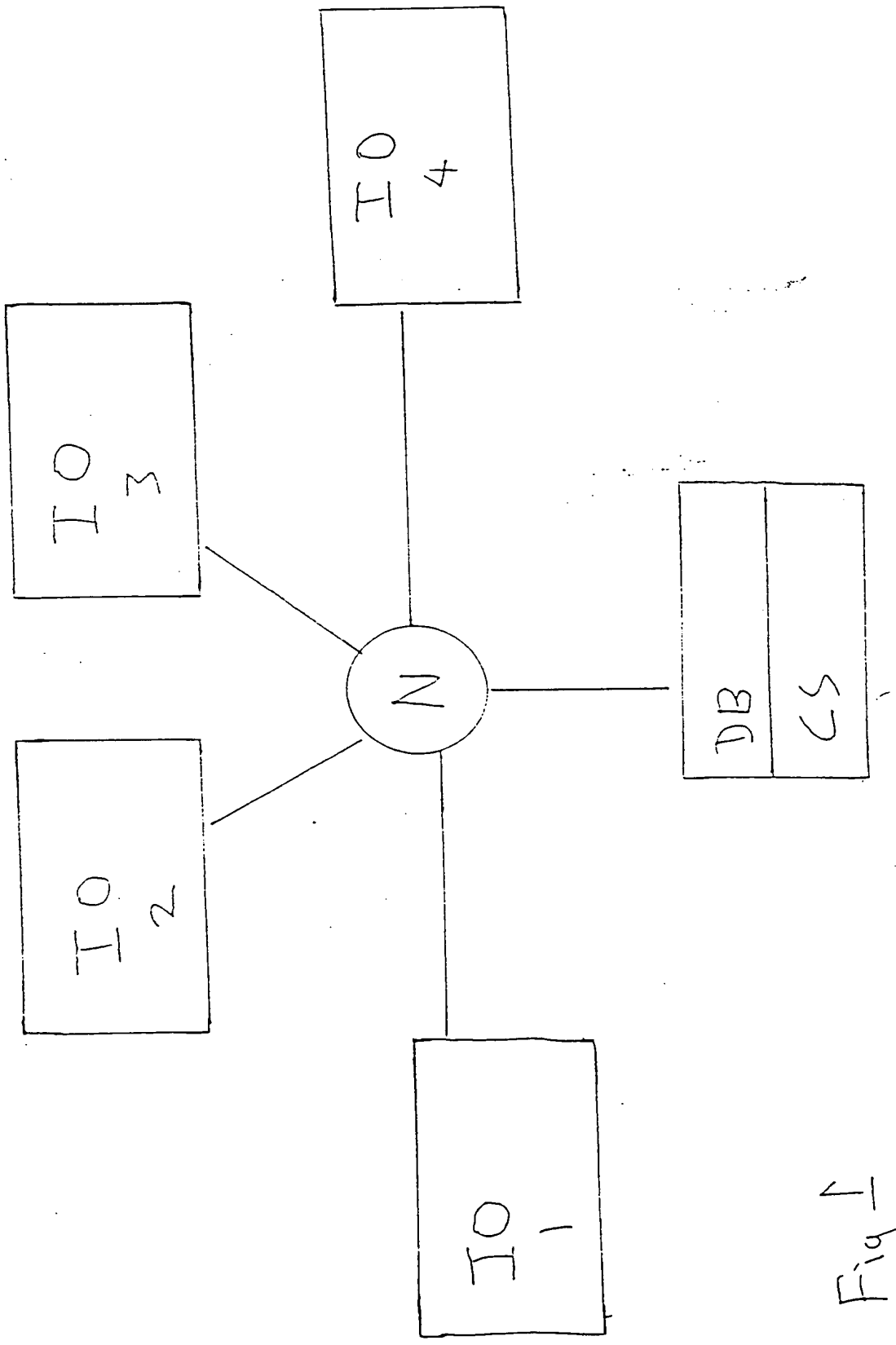
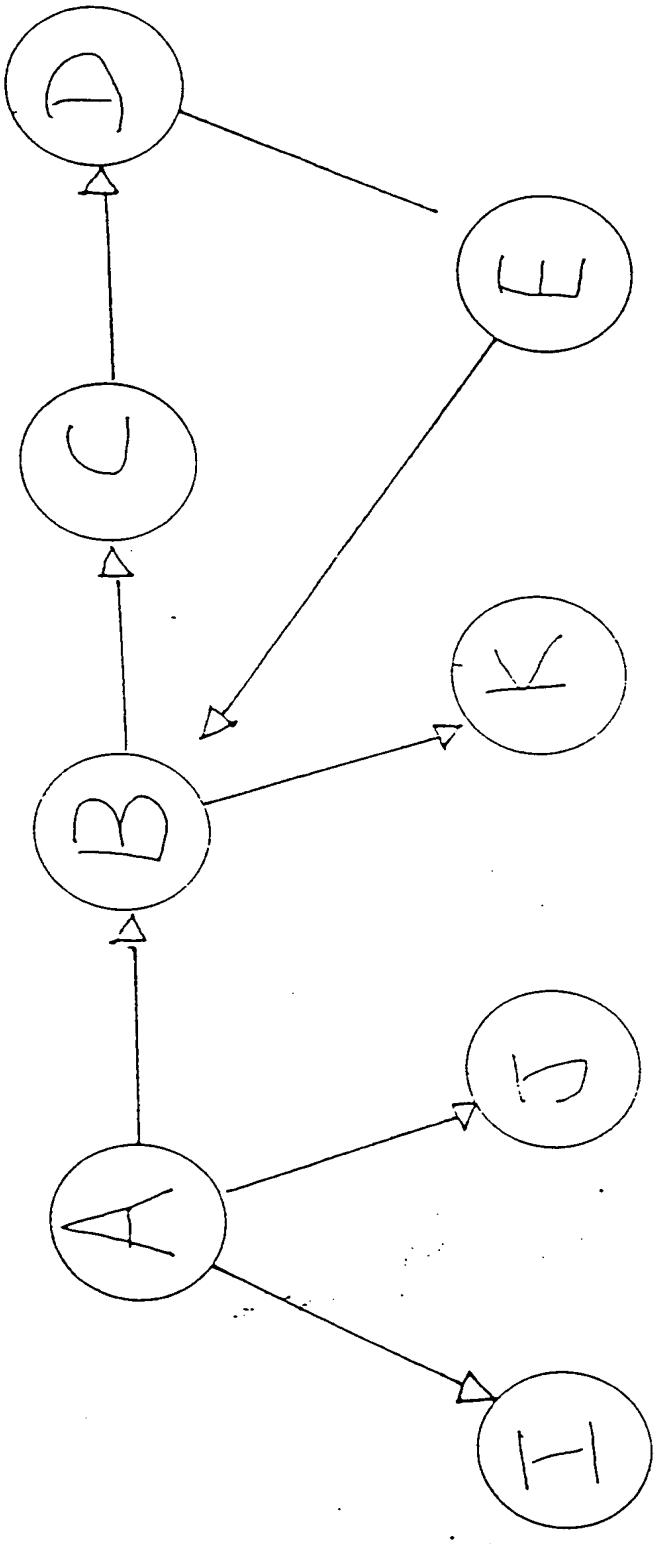


Fig 1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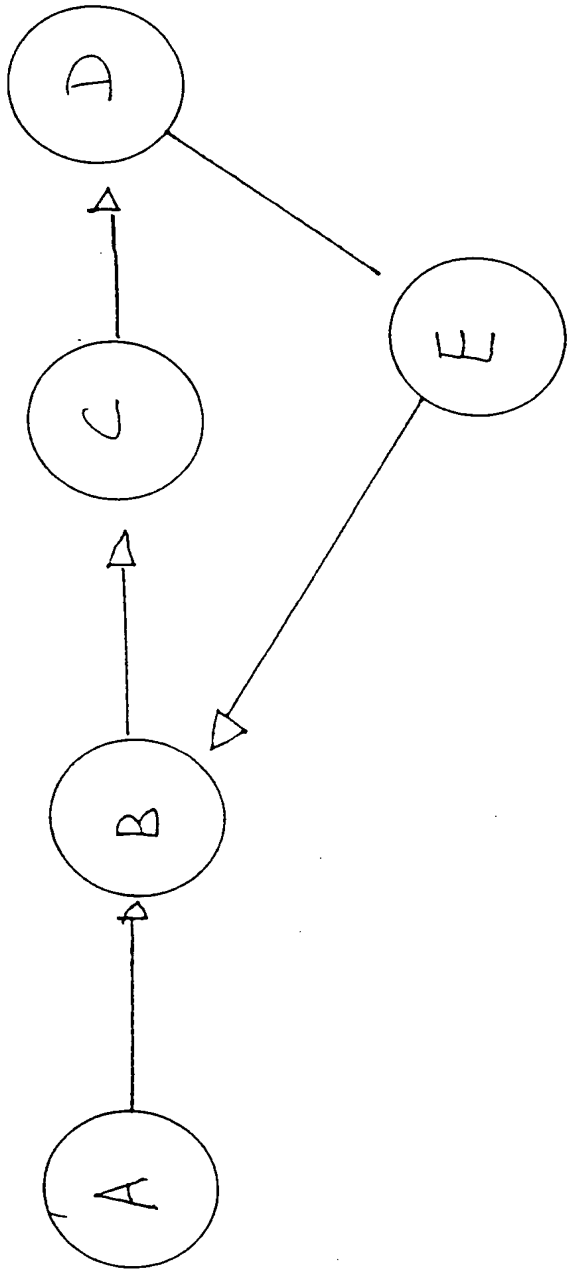
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B
A